

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

A complete listing of the claims is provided below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An assembly for supporting a mixer shaft in an opening in a vessel wall, the assembly comprising:

a support adapted to be mounted around the opening;

a sealing assembly ~~mounted~~ mountable at an axial location relative to the mixer shaft, the sealing assembly having a rotating seal element that ~~surrounds~~ is adapted to surround the mixer shaft and is positioned between a first stationary sealing ring and a second stationary sealing ring;

a first bearing mounted to the support that surrounds and supports the mixer shaft at a first axial location thereof; ~~and~~

a second bearing mounted to the support that surrounds and supports the mixer shaft at a second axial location thereof; and

a coolant coil line mounted to said sealing assembly wherein said coolant coil line is wrapped around said sealing assembly.

2. (Original) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein the first bearing is a first tapered roller bearing and the second bearing is a second tapered roller bearing.

3. (Original) An assembly according to claim 2, wherein the first tapered roller bearing is canted at a first angle relative to an axis of the mixer shaft and the second tapered roller bearing is canted at a second angle relative to the axis of the mixer shaft.

4. (Original) As assembly according to claim 3, wherein the first and second angles are in opposite directions from each other.

5. (Original) An assembly according to claim 4, wherein the first and second angles are of equal magnitude relative to the axis of the mixer shaft, but are in opposite direction to each other relative to the axis of the mixer shaft.

6. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein the support comprises a first support portion that supports the sealing assembly and a second support portion that supports the first and second bearings.

7. (Currently Amended) An assembly according to claim 6, wherein the first support portion comprises a ~~housing~~ base adapted to be attached to a ~~base that supports the first and second bearings~~ the vessel wall.

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Original) An assembly according to claim 1, further comprising an inner bearing housing that surrounds a portion of the mixer shaft and is mounted to the first and second bearings.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Currently Amended) An assembly for supporting a mixer shaft in an opening in a vessel wall, the assembly comprising:

supporting means adapted to be mounted around the opening;

sealing means supported by the supporting means that engages a circumference of the mixer shaft with sealing contact, said sealing means having a rotating seal means that ~~surrounds~~ is adapted to surround the mixer shaft and is positioned between a first stationary sealing means and a second stationary sealing means;

first bearing means supported by supporting means that surrounds and supports the mixer shaft at one axial location thereof; ~~and~~

second bearing means supported by the supporting means that surrounds and supports the mixer shaft at a second axial location thereof; and

a cooling means mounted to said sealing means wherein said cooling means is wrapped around said sealing means.

12. (Original) An assembly according to claim 11, wherein the first bearing means is a first tapered roller bearing and the second bearing means is a second tapered roller bearing.

13. (Original) An assembly according to claim 12, wherein the first tapered roller bearing is canted at a first angle relative to an axis of the mixer shaft and the second tapered roller bearing is canted at a second angle relative to the axis of the mixer shaft.

14. (Original) An assembly according to claim 13, wherein the first and second angles are in opposite directions from each other.

15. (Original) An assembly according to claim 14, wherein the first and second angles are of equal magnitude relative to the axis of the supported shaft, but are in opposite directions relative to the shaft.

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16. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 11, wherein the supporting means comprises a first support portion that supports the sealing assembly and a second support portion that supports the first and second bearing means.

17. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 16, wherein the first support portion comprises a base that is attachable to the vessel wall.

18. (Original) An assembly according to claim 17, wherein the second support portion comprises a housing attached to the base that supports the first and second bearing means.

19. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 11, further comprising an inner bearing housing that surrounds a portion of the shaft and is mounted to the first and second bearing means.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein the first stationary sealing ring contacts the rotating seal element to retain bearing lubricating material.

24. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein the second stationary sealing ring contacts the rotating seal to prevent material from escaping from the vessel.

25. (Currently Amended) An assembly for supporting a mixer shaft in an opening in a vessel wall, the assembly comprising:

a support adapted to be mounted around an opening;

a sealing assembly ~~mounted~~ mountable at an axial location relative to the mixer shaft, the sealing assembly comprising a rotating seal element that ~~surrounds~~ is adapted to surround the mixer shaft and is held between two sealing rings;

a first tapered bearing mounted to the support that surrounds and supports the mixer shaft at one axial location thereof; ~~and~~

a second tapered bearing mounted to the support that surrounds and supports the mixer shaft at a second axial location thereof; and

a coolant coil line mounted to said sealing assembly wherein said coolant coil line is wrapped around said sealing assembly,

wherein the first and second tapered bearings counteract radial and axial bending loads.

26. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 25, wherein said sealing assembly is removable.

27. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 25, wherein said first tapered bearing is removable and said second tapered bearing is removable.

28. (Cancelled).

29. (Cancelled).

30. (Cancelled).
